

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 4775

PASS: (1) DHEW/PHS/NIH - FIC (DR. MORRIS T. JONES)
NIAID - (DR. EARL BECK)
(2) CDC - ATLANTA, GA.
(3) OES - HOLD FOR DR. THOMAS VREBALOVICH
(ETA WASHINGTON DC - 4/5/78)

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OTRA TBIO IN
SUBJECT: SFCP - VISIT OF CDC LEPROSY EXPERT DR. CHARLES SHEPARD

REF: (A) STATE 063610 (B) NEW DELHI 3934

SUMMARY: WE BELIEVE THAT DR. SHEPARD'S VISIT TO INDIA MARCH 19-25 WAS USEFUL, AND THAT IT HAS RESULTED IN MOVING SEVERAL RESEARCH PROPOSALS ON LEPROSY CLOSER TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA APPROVAL. AS A RESULT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS HERE, ICMR WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE FORWARD SHORTLY ON TWO PROPOSALS: ONE ON HLA TYPING, WITH DR. DESIKAN (JALMA) AND DR. SHEPARD AND ONE ON TRANSFER FACTOR, WITH DR. JOB (CHRISTIAN MEDICAL COLLEGE, VELLORE) AND DR. ROBERT HASTINGS (CARVILLE). A THIRD, ON RADIOACTIVE LABELLING OF METABOLITES OF M. LAPRAE, WITH DR. N.H. ANTIA (BOMBAY) AND DR. NORMAN MORRISON (JOHNS HOPKINS), WILL BE READY TO MOVE FORWARD AS SOON AS WE HAVE CONFIRMATION THAT DR. MORRISON HAS APPROVED THE LATEST DRAFT PROPOSAL. END SUMMARY.

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1. DR. SHEPARD SPENT 3 DAYS AT THE CENTRAL JALMA INSTITUTE OF LEPROSY, AGRA, AND HAD INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH DR. DESIKAN CONCERNING ALL THE LEPROSY RESEARCH PROPOSALS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION BETWEEN INDIAN AND U.S. SCIENTISTS. SCIATT JOINED DR. SHEPARD IN AGRA FOR THE FINAL DAY OF THESE DISCUSSIONS.
2. DR. SHEPARD, SCIATT, AND DR. DESIKAN THEN MET IN NEW DELHI

WITH DR. GOPALAN AND DR. V.N. RAO, DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ICMR. DR. GOPALAN SAID HE WAS ANXIOUS TO SEE THESE PROJECTS MOVE FORWARD. HE SKED DR. DESIKAN, TO ENSURE THAT ALL PROJECT APPLICATIONS INCLUDED A SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF THE REASONS THAT THE DESIRED AMERICAN COLLABORATION WAS ESSENTIAL TO THE SUCCESS OF THE PROJECT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT DR. JOB'S PROPOSAL ON TRANSFER FACTOR INCLUDE AN ETHICS COMMITTEE TO MONITOR THERAPEUTIC TRIALS. DR. SHEPARD AGREED WITH THIS SUGGESTION, AND ASSURED HIM THAT THERE HAVE BEEN TRIALS IN THE U.S. USING THE TRANSFER FACTOR, SO THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA NEED NOT FEAR THAT INDIAN PATIENTS WERE BEING SUBJECTED TO RISKS NOT TRIED ELSEWHERE.

3. IN THE CONVERSATION WITH DR. RAO, SCIATT, DR. SHEPARD AND DR. DESIKAN WENT OVER THE PRECISE MODALITIES FOR SUBMITTING PROJECTS TO THE GOI AND GETTING THEM CLEARED. IN ORDER TO EXPEDITE ICMR'S FORMAL EVALUATION OF THE JALMA AND VELLORE PROJECTS, DR. DESIKAN AND DR. RAO AGREED TO MEET AND GO OVER THEM IN DETAIL NEXT WEEK. THE PRUPOSE OF THIS REVIEW IS TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO STRAY PHRASES OR OMISSIONS WHICH WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS EITHER WITHIN ICMR OR ELSEWHERE IN THE GOI. ON DR. ANTIA'S PROJECT, A SIMILAR REVIEW WOULD PRESUMABLY TAKE PLACE AS SOON AS DR. ANTIA RECEIVED CONFIRMATION THAT THE AMERICAN INVESTIGATOR CONCURRED FULLY IN HIS REVISED PROPOSAL.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP ON THE 2 PROJECTS WHICH UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE UNDER ACTIVE ICMR REVIEW, AND AS SOON AS WE HEAR THAT DR. MORRISON HAS APPROVED DR. ANTIA'S DRAFT RESEARCH PROPOSAL WE WILL ADD THAT TO OUR LIST A PROJECTS TO PURSUE. DR. SHEPARD CARRIED A COPY OF THE ANTIA PROPOSAL BACK TO THE US FOR DR. MORRISON. WOULD APPRECIATE HEARING WHEN DR. MORRISON HAS GONE OVER IT. WE WOULD NOTE THAT DR. GOPALAN SEVERAL TIMES EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THESE PROJECTS ABOUT WHICH NIH HAS EXPRESSED SUCH EAGERNESS NOT BE STOPPED IN THE FINAL NIH REVIEW PROCESS. WE BELIEVE THAT ICMR IS SERIOUS ABOUT WANTING TO GET THESE PROJECTS UNDERWAY, AND HOPE TO BE ABLE TO REPORT TO FURTHER PROGRESS WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK. GOHEEN

NOTE BY OC/T: PASSED TO CDC ATLANTA, GA.

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